

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

/055 W

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R 090940Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4412

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, CG

SUBJ: DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF TRAIAL FOR COUP MANQUE CONSPIRATORS

1. ON SEPTEMBER 6 OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWAGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT AIR FORCE HELICOPTER CARRYING GENERAL MASSIALA KINKELA KULU KANGALA, WHO PRESIDED OVER TRIAL OF COUP MANQUE CONSPIRATORS, DISAPPEARED SEPTEMBER 2 WHILE ON ITS WAY TO MOMA IN BAS ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH WAS MADE DURING MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SEPT. 5, MASSIALA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MILITARY DOCTOR, A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY, AND THE CREW OF THE HELICOPTER. THE PLANE REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED SHORTLY AFTER IT TOOK OFF FROM KINSHASA.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 6 WRECKAGE OF MASSIALA'S HELICOPTER WAS FINALLY FOUND WITH ALL PERSONS ON BOARD DEAD. A FUNERAL SERVICE WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 8 ATTENDED BY MOBUTU AND OTHER HIGH ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: NEWS OF DISAPPEARANCE OF MASSIALA'S AIRCRAFT CAME THREE DAYS AFTER FACT. IT SEEMS THAT HELICOPTER HAD GENUINE MECHANICAL MAL FUNCTION AND MASSIALA'S DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL, NEVRTHELESS, THE ZAIRIAN RUMOR CIRCUIT ATTRIBUTES THE CRASH TO FETICHEURS--THE EVIL EYE LAID UPON MASSIALA BY

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THE (INNOCENT) CONSPIRATORS. AND AN EXCELLENT SOURCE IN THE

PRESIDENCY SAYS THAT WHEREAS MOBUTU HAD INTENDED TO COMMUTE
THE DEATH SENTENCES, HE MAY NOW BE FORCED TO EXECUTE THE 7
KEY CONSPIRATORS SINCE TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD LEND CREDENCE
TO THE RUMORS AND SHOW WEAKNESS. IN SUM, MASSIALA'S DEATH
HAS STIRRED UP THE BASIC AFRICAN BREW IN WAYS WE FOREIGNERS CAN
ONLY GUESS AT.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, PLOTS, POLITICAL TRIALS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA08125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750311-0555
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750971/aaaackrs.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF TRIAL FOR COUP MANQUE CONSPIRATORS
TAGS: PINS, CG, (MASSIALA KINKELA KULU KANGALA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006